

Section 2-548. DETERMINING AWARD; REJECTION AND RE-ADVERTISEMENT; CONTRACTS LIMITED TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER.

(a) The contract for which sealed bids are invited shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Any person or organization is deemed not to be a responsible bidder that:

- (1) Is not an equal opportunity employer;
- (2) Has been found by a court or administrative body of competent jurisdiction to be in violation of the National Labor Relations Act and that such violation continues to exist;
- (3) Has been found by a court or administrative body of competent jurisdiction to be in violation of the Labor Relations Act for the State of Connecticut, Title 31, Chapter 561 and that such violation continues to exist; or;
- (4) Is found to be delinquent in the payment of personal and/or real property taxes or is found to be the owner of an interest of twenty-five (25%) percent or more in a corporation that is delinquent in the payment of personal or real property taxes.

(b) In any case, where a bidder is found to be delinquent in the payment of personal and/or real property taxes, the Purchasing Agent may require that the bidder submit a plan whereby the bidder will make current all arrearage of such taxes. Such plan shall include a schedule of payments sufficient to make such bidder current within a time period satisfactory to the City Manager. The submission of such approved plan will certify the bidder as a responsible bidder with respect to tax delinquency. Subsequent to the opening of the bids for a City contract, the Purchasing Agent shall forward the name of the lowest responsible bidder to the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission. The Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission, and/or his designee, shall review each bidder to determine whether the bidder can be accepted to be an equal opportunity employer. Within three (3) days after receiving the name of the bidder along with the requisite information, the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission shall make written recommendations to the city manager.

(c) The City Manager shall certify whether the bidder is deemed to be a responsible bidder. If the city manager deems a bidder to meet the city's requirements, the bidder will be certified for a period of 1 year. In each case, where the City Manager determines that a bidder is not deemed to be a responsible bidder, he shall state his reasons in a written opinion to be forwarded to the Purchasing Agent, the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission and the bidder. The decision of the City Manager that a person is not deemed to be a responsible bidder shall be appealable by written notice, by the bidder to the contract enforcement committee, as set forth in subsection 2-633(c), within five (5) days after the receipt of the City Manager's written opinion. The contract enforcement committee may

reverse the City Manager's determination by a majority vote. The bids of all persons and organizations who are not certified as responsible bidders shall not be accepted. In determining whether any given bidder to the City can be accepted as an equal opportunity employer, the bidder will be required to submit certain information, with his bid, on forms provided by the City. Such information will be reviewed and evaluated by the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission and/or his designee.

Such information shall comprise the:

- (1) Present total work force of the bidder and the participation of minority and female workers therein;
- (2) Existing job categories occupied by minority and female workers in relation to the overall workforce of the bidder;
- (3) Relationship of the bidder's minority and female workforce, by job category, to the bidder's labor market area;
- (4) Commitment of the bidder to hire minority and female workers when present minority and female workforce is not representative of minority and female workforce availability in the bidder's labor market area;
- (5) Submittal by a bidder of a company policy statement of Equal Employment Opportunity.

(d) Quality offered, delivery terms and service reputation of the vendor may be taken into consideration in determining the successful bidder. In the event that more than one lowest responsible bid has been received, the location of the vendor's principal place of business may also be taken into consideration with preference accorded to a city located business over a noncity-located business, a state-located business over a nonstate-located business, and a domestic business over a foreign business. Upon recommendation by the Purchasing Agent, the equal employment opportunity provisions of this section may be waived in the sale of city property.

(e) The City Manager shall have the power to reject any of all bids, or the bid for any one or more commodities or contractual services included in the proposed contract, when the public interest is served thereby, and to direct the Purchasing Agent to advertise again for bids. If all bids received are for the same total amount or unit price, and if the public interest will not permit the delay of re-advertising for bids, the City Manager may direct the Purchasing Agent to purchase the commodities or contractual services in the open market, provided the price paid in the open market shall not exceed the lowest contract bid price submitted for the same commodity or contractual service.

(f) No transaction which is essentially a unit shall be divided for the purpose of evading the intent of this section.

(g) For purposes of this Section and Section 2-545 of the Municipal Code, the following definitions for minority workers shall apply:

- (1) *BLACK* (not of Hispanic origin). All persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
- (2) *HISPANIC*. All persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- (3) *ASIAN* or *PACIFIC ISLANDER*. All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, and Samoa.
- (4) *AMERICAN INDIAN* or *ALASKA NATIVE*. All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.